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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : ONO, Toshinori et al.

SERIAL NO. : 10/055,996

FILED : January 25, 2002

FOR : MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SAME AND MAGNETIC DISK APPARATUS

ART UNIT : 1773 (Anticipated)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

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SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following amendments.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 1 and add the following new claims:

2. A magnetic recording medium comprising a substrate, a magnetic film formed thereon and a protective film formed thereon for the protection of said magnetic film and composed mainly of carbon, wherein

said protective film comprises a boundary having a specific steepness between a CSS area of thickness A and a data area of thickness B, and

$|R_2 - R_1| < 5$, where R_1 is a radial position at the end of the boundary in the direction of thickness decrease which corresponds to 90% of the thickness A and R_2 is a radial position at the end of the boundary in the direction of thickness increase which corresponds to 110% of the thickness B.